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20 November 1962

OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Attitude of Latin American Governments
on Survival of Castro Cuba

There are a number of Latin American governments which will still regard a Cuba dominated by Fidel Castro as a threat to their security even after the removal of Soviet offensive weapons.

The six Central American countries, along with Argentina, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Paraguay all favor strong measures to eliminate the Castro regime and the Communist threat in Cuba, even though the missiles have been removed. Colombia has taken a similar position in the past, but concern there with internal security and economic matters has somewhat reduced support for hemispheric actions against Cuba.

Brazil is sticking strongly to its non-interventionist policy, even to the point of trying to reinstate Castro's Cuba in the OAS. The other four countries with relations with Cuba--Chile, Bolivia, Uruguay, and Mexico--have been against intervention in Cuba's internal affairs.

The position of Ecuador, Peru, and Haiti is unknown, although Haiti has taken an active part in the quarantine of Cuba.

Chile apparently intends to maintain relations with Castro's Cuba, evidently seeing itself as an important factor in any future negotiations regarding Cuba.

Argentina: Argentina responded publicly to the Cuban crisis almost immediately with unequivocal support. Two

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destroyers were sent to participate in the quarantine, and a marine battalion and other ground troops were offered.

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On 5 November the Argentine delegate to the UN voiced the strong concern of his government to Ambassador Stevenson over any no-invasion guarantee protecting Castro, and said it would be most difficult to accept such a guarantee.

Venezuela: Venezuela has been one of Castro's main targets. Foreign Minister Falcon has told Ambassador Stevenson that "Venezuela would never give its guarantee not to invade Cuba." On 17 November President Betancourt in talking to the US Ambassador urged the US to remain firm. Betancourt said the Venezuelan man-in-the-street, while not necessarily demanding invasion, increasingly shares the "view of his American cousin" that now is the time something should be done about Castro. On 16 November the Venezuelan UN representative told a member of the US delegation that Castro has "gone much too far" ever to be acceptable again as a respectable member of the western hemisphere. He added that a "guaranteed" Communist Cuba would be a constant menace to other countries, especially Venezuela and Argentina. High ranking Venezuelan military officers have told US military personnel in Caracas that they feel the US should have and still should spearhead an invasion of Cuba to eradicate Castro and the Communist "menace."

Guatemala: Guatemala has long been in the lead in advocating action to depose Castro and the Communists in Cuba. [REDACTED]

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the Panamanian Foreign Ministry shares completely the Guatemalan Foreign Ministry's concern over guarantees to Castro.

Dominican Republic: In a conversation with Ambassador Martin on 7 November the foreign minister of the Dominican Republic said that his country's bases would be available for all countries participating in any counter-Castro moves other than the present quarantine. Foreign Minister Bonilla had earlier told the Ambassador that the council of state had decided that the Dominican Republic would support any initiative for an all-out effort to eliminate once and for all the threat to the peace of the hemisphere represented by Castro and his regime. He also said that his government is prepared to take the initiative itself if Venezuela or someone else does not.

Nicaragua: President Somoza of Nicaragua has publicly stated that his country will give asylum to the Cuban exiles of the Revolutionary Council if they should be expelled from the US. On 8 November the US Ambassador in Managua summed up Somoza's position over the past three years as favoring invasion of Cuba to put an end to Castro Communists.

Costa Rica: On 6 November Costa Rican Foreign Minister Oduber told a US Embassy officer that regardless of the elimination of the missile bases, Latin American nations, especially Venezuela and Central America, are victims of Communist aggression. He said the base of subversion and aggression must be wiped out if Latin American countries are to resist Communism successfully.



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Paraguay: Paraguay has given unconditional support to the US in any efforts to eliminate the Castro-Communist base in this hemisphere. On 8 November Foreign Minister Sapena told the US Ambassador that he doubted the wisdom of the Brazilian denuclearization proposal, saying that if by making Paraguay into a nuclear missile base at some future time, Communism could be better dealt a necessary blow, his government would want to be free to accept the missiles.

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